







Send us your letters, birthdays, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

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I'm feeling positive! There are signs all around me that attitudes are changing when it comes to the way we treat the planet. In the past we used Earth's resources without thinking too much about the consequences.

In the end something has to give: according to the WWF Living Planet report we have to change the way we live or we'll need another Earth's worth of resources by the 2030s.

Despite looking really, really hard all round the universe we haven't found even one other planet that's anything as useful as Earth (not that we should go and mess up another anyway!). We have to find a way for everybody to have a good quality of life while using only their fair share of the resources.

In this issue of NG KIDS we look at three ways to generate our own energy using sun, wind and poo! On page 30 we learn how award-winning eco-sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor combines his skill as an artist with conservation. Fun Stuff has turned green as well. I wish it were that easy for the rest of us!

April has three public holidays. One of them is Freedom Day on 27 April, which celebrates the day of our first democratic elections, when Nelson Mandela became our president.

This year the "new South Africa" turns 18 - in human terms, our country is now a grown-up! Let me know what you think of South Africa and what your wishes are for its future.

Dare to Explore!

PS I'd also like to hear what you get up to during the Easter holidays!

SUBSCRIBERS

April's subscribers of the month are Chrisna Wagenaar, 12, from Jamestown and Aedan Booysen, 5, from Menlo Park. Chrisna won a pair of Chicago CRS200 Adjustable Roller Skates and Aedan won a pair of Chicago CRS205 Adjustable Roller Skates for boys.

This sporty quad skate with two-piece boot adjusts through four full sizes so there's no need to worry about them outgrowing the boots too quickly. The double mesh, breathable and adjustable liner makes for comfortable skating. Each skate has oversized wheels, semi-precision speed bearings and built-in toe stop for safe and reliable stopping, indoors and outdoors. It's great for first-time and skilled skaters.

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To celebrate Earth Day on 22 April we hid ten polar bears on the pages of the





CHERIEN AND

HI FIONA,

I LOVE NG KIDS! I HAVE A BROTHER NAMED WILBRIE. HE IS SIX AND HE ALMOST LOST IT WHEN I RECEIVED THE ISSUE WITH THE SNOW LEOPARD! THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING MAGAZINE! I ALSO SENT YOU A PHOTO OF ME WITH MY DOG'S NEW BABY.

CHERIEN VAN ZYL, 10, RIEBEECKSTAD



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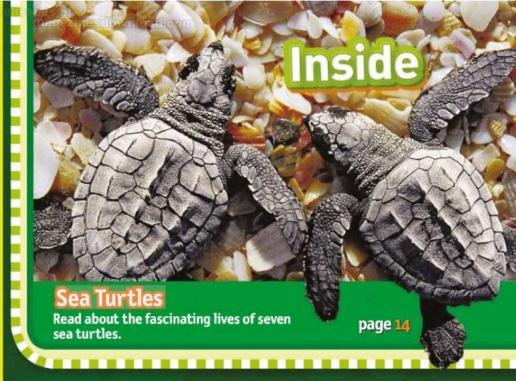
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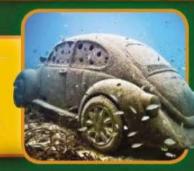
Three energy-busting ideas for a cleaner, greener

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Underwater Sculptures

Check out these eco-friendly sculptures.

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What In The World?





Stump Your Parents





Just Joking



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On the Cover

PAGE 4: © CLAUDIO CONTRERES / NPL / MINDEN PICTURES (KEMP'S RIDLEY); ROLAND METCALFE (ILLUSTRATION); JASON DECAIRES
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Come and join the fun this Easter as we build a BIG LEGO Fire Engine.

Fourways Mall

From 2 - 29 April 2012.









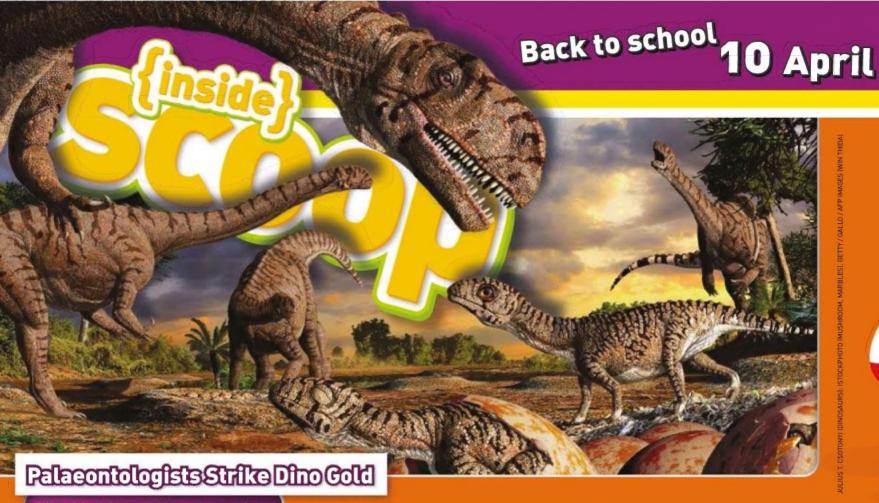


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The oldest known dinosaur nesting site, dating from 190 million years ago, has been found in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State. It includes nests, eggs, hatchlings and the remains of adults. The species that lived here was the Massospondylus. It had a small head, ate only plants and grew to at least six metres long. The females lay as many as 35 small eggs, arranged them neatly in one layer and guarded the nest.

Most unusual about
Massospondylus? It walked on all
fours as a kid but on its back legs
as a grown-up. Humans do that but
it's very unusual for an animal, says
biology professor Robert Reisz of
Toronto Mississauga University, who
led the research team.

Operation Elephant Eye

Win Thida the Asian elephant injured her cornea playing with her pachyderm pals. Keepers at her home, the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, weren't sure what to do. Ointment and painkillers weren't helping and when she began struggling to keep the eye open, the zoo called in veterinarian Anne-Marie Verbruggen. They decided to give Win Thida a jumbo-sized contact lens but this would involve an hour-long operation and a very tall ladder.

The elephant had to be anaesthetised in a standing position and she and Anne-Marie trained daily for weeks to prepare her for the operation. "The main difficulty was her height," says Anne-Marie. "Elephants can't lie down for long before their immense weight impairs their breathing, so I used a ladder to get close enough. It wasn't ideal, but it worked." As for Win Thida's eyesight, zoo officials say it got better right away after the fitting.





APRIL FOOL'S





PRANKED! One of the boxes below is flipped backwards. To read the text, hold up your magazine to a mirror. Can you read it now?

April Fool's Day has been cancelled! Only joking. In South Africa the first day of April is usually a day full of tricks, pranks and crazy stunts but celebrations aren't the same around the world.

Merry pranksters in France celebrate *Poisson d'Avril*, which means "April Fish", by taping a fish to someone's back and calling out "poisson d'Avril" when they discover it. Originally it used to be a dead fish but nowadays it's more often a paper fish.

In Scotland "April Gowk" celebrations last two days. The pranks are usually only played in the morning and if anyone tries one after noon, they are considered the fool instead. Polish pranksters celebrate "Prymas Aprylis" and also dress up in costume.

There are even countries that celebrate foolishness on other days. In Denmark celebrations are on 1 May, called Maj-kat. Spain and Mexico observe the Feast of the Innocents on 28 December.

Bob Martin

For Your Diary

BY DELENÉ VAN DER LUGT

Marvellous Marbles

Good Friday each year marks one of events on the sporting calendar – Marbles Championships! the wackiest the World

Since 1932 teams have been battling it out in the car park of the Greyhound pub in Tinsley Green, England. Teams from all over the world compete and try to knock 25 glass balls out of a two-metre concrete ring. Sadly you have to be at least 20 to enter. It sounds like a ball!

Whatafun=gil Imagine that instead of

Imagine that instead of dropping off all your plastic recycling at a landfill, you unleashed your plastic-eating mushroom and before you knew it, your rubbish was gone! Polyurethane is in almost everything we use – pens, toys and even the hosepipe you use to water the garden. It's extremely resilient and can take up to centuries to decompose. That may be about to change.

A group of Yale University biology students went on a rainforest expedition in Ecuador to examine plants. They came back with an undiscovered fungus that has the ability not only to eat plastic, but to survive on a diet of plastic!

Pestalotiopsis microspora is the first known fungus that survives on just plastic in an environment without oxygen. That's exactly what the conditions are like at the bottom of a landfill.

The students recently published their research. Perhaps someday all rubbish dumps will have these "green" fungi happily munching away!

ool Things about Frogs

Save The Frogs Day is on 28 April. People all over the world will host events to raise awareness of frog conservation. Here's "hopping" it's a big success!

 Frog bones form a ring when the frog is hibernating, just like trees do. Scientists can use these rings to calculate the age of a frog.

2. The golden poison dart frog produces a toxin in its skin. It's so lethal, just one gram could kill 100 000 people.

- 3. About once a week frogs completely shed their skin after pulling off the old, dead skin, they eat it.
- 4. A group of frogs is called an army.
- 5. Tadpoles of some frogs can change their shape when they detect predators in their water. Their new shape which develops over a few weeks allows them to swim faster and avoid being fish food.





Because your dog is your best friend, you want to give it food as good as Munis! Life-long pet-loving family Bob Martin has a brand new dog food range called Bob Martin Complete Condition. It's healthy delicious and packed with the goodness of Bob Martin Condition tablets. And talking about Mums: tell her it's

conveniently available from supermarkets!

Bob Martin is giving away four hampers to the value of R500 each. SMS "NG KIDS Bob" followed by your name, surname and age to

name, surname and age to

83970. Visit www.bobmartin.co.za for
more information.

MIGHTY MINDS

Mighty Minds is an educational series of colourful charts and posters with stunning photographs and bright fillustrations that will brighten any room. These posters are a rich source of information for use at home and in school. All posters are laminated, so they can be wiped clean easily!

Winone of three postersets of 30 different posters for your classroom! SMS NGKMighty to 33070 followed by

your name and surname, your schools name, address and telephone number as well as your teacher's name to 23970. Contact Seans@



silveray.co.za for more information.

SUGAR BAY SUMMER CAMP

Everwanted to go to a real summer camp?

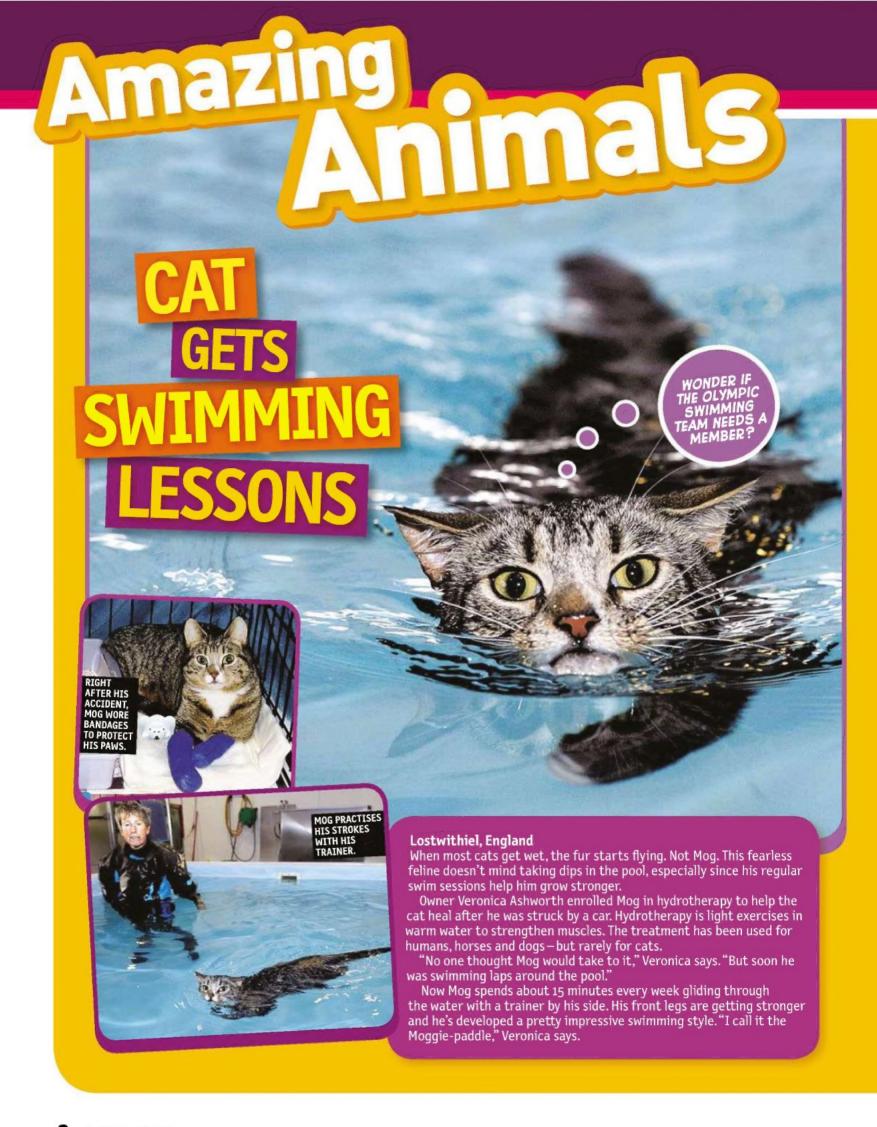
Now you can! Sugar Bay is the only camp of its kind in South Africa, with over 100 different activities on offer. We have the ingredients for the most fun and action-packed holiday imaginable!

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www.sugarbay.co.za for more details.

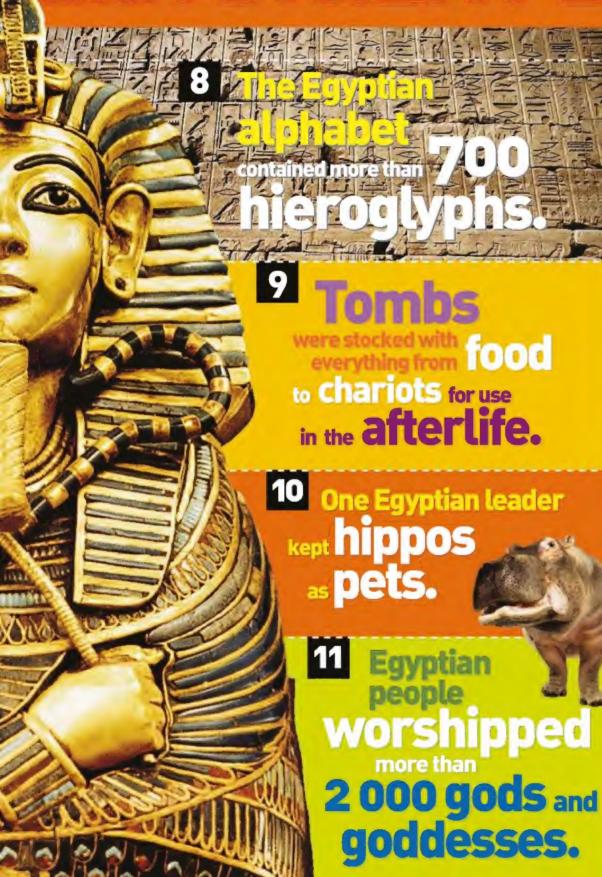


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WANT MORE?

Check out National Geographic KIDS Everything Ancient Egypt.



Available from www.kalahari.com

Take a COOL ANCIENT EGYPT QUIZ— ON YOUR PHONE!

Do you have a smartphone? With a parent's help, follow these instructions.



- Go to your phone's app store.
- Search for and download a free mobile har code scanner.
- Open the scanner.
- Aim your phone at the mobile bar code (above) so it's in the middle of the screen.
- Watch what happens!



Check out the



se outrageous facts.







OCTOPUS-**FLAVOURED** ICE CREAM.



The fascinating of 7 sea turtle **GREEN SEA TURTLE: THE NEAT FREAK** Green sea turtles have a couple of answers to the question "how do you stay clean when you live in water?" Green turtles In Hawaii visit a swim-through turtle wash. Turtles choose a "cleaning station"—a location where groups of cleaner fish groom the turtles by eating the algae, barnacles, parasites and other ocean dirt off their shells and skin. In Australia the turtles clean up with sponge baths! They rub against a favourite sponge or rock, scrubbing algae off their shells, heads and flippers. BILL CURTSINGER / NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK (LARGE GROUP); © NORBERT WU / MINDEN PICTURES (GREEN); © CLAUDIO CONTRERES / NPL / MINDEN PICTURES (KEMP'S RIDLEY); © SA TEAM / FOTO NATURE / MINDEN PICTURES (LEATHERBACK) APRIL 2012



BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

Think all sea turtles are the same? Yes, they all have shells and flippers. But while all seven species are endangered or vulnerable, each kind stands out in its own way. Here's a look at the traits that make each species a superstar.

KEMP'S RIDLEY: THE LITTLE ONE

The Kemp's ridley may be the smallest sea turtle, but that doesn't mean it's tiny. The adult reptile weighs 30 to 50 kilograms – more than many ten-year-old kids. Its shield-shaped shell is about the size of a car tyre. This "little" turtle is also speedy. Most sea turtles take two to four hours to dig a nest, lay and bury eggs. "Kemp's ridleys are very quick," says sea turtle expert Tasha Metz. "It takes them only about 50 minutes to do all of that."

A FISHERMAN NAMED RICHARD KEMP WAS THE FIRST TO SUBMIT THIS TURTLE TO SCIENTISTS. FOR IDENTIFICATION, SO THE SPECIES WAS NAMED AFTER HIM.

KEMP'S RIDLEY

LEATHERBACK: THE MEGA TURTLE

The leatherback is a giant among reptiles. Its leathery shell, which can be almost 2 metres long and 1,5 metres wide, is about as big as a door. Tipping the scales at an average of 680 kilograms, these mega turtles weigh more than any other sea turtle. Six professional rugby players weigh as much as one leatherback. Its massive size doesn't slow it down, though. A leatherback can swim as fast as a bottlenose dolphin.

WIEN THEY SEARCH FOR FOOD, LEATHERBACKS DIVE DEEPER THAN ANY OTHER REPTILE. SCIENTISTS THINK THEIR FLEXIBLE SHELLS HELP THEM SURVIVE THE PRESSURE OF THE DEEP SEA.



LOGGERHEAD: THE TOUGH GUY

The loggerhead sea turtle's powerful jaws can easily crack open the thick shells of lobsters (below), large conchs and whelk snails to get to the meat inside. Like other sea turtles, loggerheads nest in one place and eat in another. After leaving the nesting site, some loggerheads swim a third of the way around the world to find food.

LOGGERHEADS TRAVEL INTO COLD WATERS AS FAR NORTH AS NEWFOUNDLAND IN CANADA AND AS FAR SOUTH AS ARGENTINA



MUMS LIKE THESE LAY AND BURY THEIR EGGS ON THE BEACH. EVENTUALLY THE BABY TURTLES HATCH AND DIG OUT OF THEIR SAND NESTS. THEY SCAMPER INTO THE SEA, DISAPPEARING FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SCIENTISTS AREN'T SURE WHERE THE HATCHLINGS LIVE DURING THIS TIME.

HAWKSBILL: THE HARDY EATER

Hawksbill sea turtles have an unusual diet: sponges. "Some sponges are made of hard, glass-like needles," Tasha says.
"A hawksbill easily nips off pieces of sponge with its sharp beak."
Sponges are toxic to most animals, but not to this turtle. It gobbles about 540 kilograms of sponges a year without any trouble. The toxic diet has an advantage. Few other animals eat sponges, so the turtle doesn't have to compete for food.

HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES
LIVE IN TROPICAL CORAL
REEFS AROUND THE WORLD.
THEIR NAME DESCRIBES THE
HAWKLIKE BEAK, WHICH
IS PERFECT FOR PLUCKING
SPONGES FROM THE CRACKS
AND CREVICES IN CORAL.







ATBACK: THE HOMEBODY

Unlike its globe-trotting cousins, a flatback sea turtle is a homebody. This rare turtle nests only on remote beaches of northern Australia. It spends most of its days floating in the water and basking in the sun off the coast. Relative to their size, these sea turtles have the largest eggs and hatchlings of the seven species. Most sea turtles' eggs are the size of table tennis balls, but flatbacks' eggs are slightly smaller than a tennis ball. Scientists think the larger eggs help the hatchlings start life bigger, stronger and faster. Size and speed come in handy as the newly hatched turtle tries to reach the safety of coastal waters before a crocodile, crab, or sea bird snaps it up for lunch.

SCIENTISTS USE CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY TO UNCOVER NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT HOW THE SHIP SANK.

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

unday, 14 April 1912: The R.M.S. Titanic steams across the North Atlantic Ocean. The 269-metre-long passenger ship, the largest and most luxurious on the seas, carries 2 208 people on its first voyage from Southampton, England, to New York in America.

Suddenly a dark shape appears. "Iceberg right ahead!" shouts the lookout. It's too late - the iceberg scrapes the ship. Within three hours the Titanic sinks. Almost 1 500 people lose their lives.

Scientists discovered the Titanic's wreck on the ocean floor in 1985 and have studied it closely ever since. To mark the hundredth anniversary of the sinking, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence James Cameron - the director of the movie Titanic - assembled a team of experts to examine the shipwreck again. "We call it wreck forensics," he says. Using 3-D modelling and state-of-the-art technology, the experts recreated the scene to find new clues about how the Titanic sank.

FLOODING

Could the ship have sunk more slowly, allowing a greater number of people to survive? It's possible. Many of the ship's portholes were found open. Experts think passengers opened these windows to air their rooms and then never closed them. This caused the ship to take on water faster. Something similar may have happened in one of the grand lobbies, where a large door was found open. The ship's second officer had ordered a crewman to open it during the evacuation. The experts concluded that the door stayed open -letting water guickly flood the ship's lower half." The door was twice the size of the damage caused by the iceberg," James says. "That would have sped up the sinking of the ship."

As the Titanic took on water, the front of

the ship, called the bow, sank below the surface. This caused the back, or stern, to lift into the air. Soon the stress was too great and the ship broke in half. James says the split was as if someone held the ends of a banana and snapped it in two. The top splits

SUBMERSIBLE.

EXPLORER JAMES CAMERON PILOTS AN UNDERWATER VEHICLE CALLED A

and the sides buckle, but the bottom peel stays intact." When the Titanic broke in half and the bow pulled away, the bottom probably remained attached to the stern until it was pulled apart as well," he says.

In its final resting place 4,6 kilometres underwater, the bow looks remarkably intact. But the stern looks like a bomb

destroyed it. Why the difference? The bow was filled with water when it sank, so the pressure was the same on the inside as the outside. The stern, however, sank with lots of air inside. "It imploded because of the pressure," James says.

FINAL IMPACT

The sinking ship created a massive trail of water that followed it downward at 30 to 40 kilometres an hour. The experts think this water trail pummelled the Titanic after it hit the bottom. "Millions of litres of water pushed down on it," James says.

With all this new information, is our understanding of the Titanic tragedy complete?"I think we have a very good picture of what happened," James says. 'But there will always be mysteries."

SUPERSIZED SHI The Titanic was about as long as three soccer fields. With its smokestacks it was as tall as a 17-storey building.

TITANIC

We asked oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Robert Ballard, who led the team that discovered the *Titanic* in 1985, what it felt like to make the discovery of the century.

Contract to the second

"My first reaction was one of excitement and celebration. But we were at the very spot on the **Cold North Atlantic Ocean** where it all happened. So we had a quiet moment of remembrance."

TTANIC LONDO

Scientists know a lot about how the Titanic sank, but other things also played a part.

CHEDULE

The Titanic set sail more than three weeks behind schedule. If the ship had left on time, there probably wouldn't have been an iceberg in its path. FROM CALM TO CHAOS

The sea was unusually calm on 14 April 1912. Waves would have made the iceberg easier to spot.

MISSED MESSAGES

Two messages were telegraphed from other ships to warn the Titanic of icebergs, but they never reached the captain.

MY JART); © EXACTOSTOCK / SUPER; / WALDEN MEDIA, LLC JAMES DAME! | BALLARDI, © OCEAN / CORBIS ILITE

GREK MYTHS

ZEUS: KING OF THE GODS

BY DONNA JO NAPOLI

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTINA BALIT

THE STORY BEGINS...

Zeus ruled over all the other gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. But he had to defeat his father, Cronus, to gain power. Years before, Cronus had swallowed Zeus' brothers and sisters—Hestia, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter and Hera. They were rescued and banded together against Cronus and his brothers and sisters, called the Titans. This is the story of their epic battle.

ar began. And continued, as wars will do. For ten years the battle scorched Earth, sent smoke into the skies and sullied the waters. It wore away at everyone's spirits. In the end Gaia, the earth mother who had started all life, told Zeus he would win if he freed her other children, who were cast into the underworld by his father, Cronus.

Zeus never wasted a moment on second thoughts. He freed the three brothers, who each had 50 heads and 100 hands. He also freed the three Cyclopes. In surprised gratitude, the Cyclopes gave Zeus the lightning bolt and deafening thunder he could use to split the skies and set Earth on fire. They gave Zeus' brothers gifts, too. Poseidon got a sharp, gleaming trident with which he could strike the seabeds to raise massive waves. To Hades they gave a helmet of invisibility which would make him disappear.

The hundred-handed, one-eyed brothers fought beside their nieces and nephews.

No longer was the battle simply hurling rocks and spears or crushing the enemy with axes. Zeus hurled bolts and burned the forests. He cast flames so hot the seas boiled and parts of Earth melted. Poseidon shook Earth so rivers spilt over their banks. Hades raced unseen among all attacking his enemies.

As Zeus saw it, the war was old against young. The young gods won.

Zeus had the Titans sealed in the underworld with the hundred-handed ones as guards. Gaia was bewildered. What was the point of locking away the Titans? Why did Zeus have to be as vengeful as his father? And so she gave birth to her last child, the monster Typhon.

From his shoulders sprang a hundred serpentine

Typhon's eyes flashed fire. Everyone fell back in terror. Except Zeus. He had lightning. He burned off Typhon's heads and banished him to become wild winds that cursed sailors on the high seas. Zeus was the undisputed king.

The brothers divided up the universe. Poseidon took the seas, Hades got the underworld and Zeus kept everything else. The sisters were left out entirely. That was typical of Zeus. He was brought up to believe he was entitled to everything. Nothing ever changed his mind.



How three well-known South African attractions are getting an energy boost.

hat would your life be like without electricity? Grim and dim! It is used for lighting, heating and cooling, for cooking and to charge all kinds of gadgets.

In South Africa three quarters of our energy comes from coal. This is more than other countries mainly because we have so much of the stuff! We are the fifth largest coal-producing country in the world.

The trouble is when coal is burnt to make electricity, carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. This adds to global warming.

It's time to think clean and green: we need ways to make electricity without messing up the environment.

Z00 P00

Lorna Fuller runs the environmental programme at the Johannesburg Zoo. Over the past few years they have made lots of good green changes. "Time is running out, so we all have to do something. The easiest way to start is making small changes to our daily lifestyle. Encouraging people around us to do the same is important and I am glad I could do this at the zoo," Lorna says.

Because the zoo gets so many visitors, it's the perfect place to show people what can be done.

Project 90 x 2030, is an Non Governmental Organisation set up to challenge South Africans to change the way they live and the way they relate to the environment by 2030.

With the help of this organisation the zoo set up a biogas digester. This produces biogas out of vegetable scraps from the restaurant and the piles of dung which is "supplied" by the animals. The gas is piped back into the restaurant and used for cooking. Next time you order lunch at the zoo, you'll know the elephants helped to cook it.

COOL PENGUINS

Wallace and Grommit are two of the rockhopper penguins living at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town.
They were found stranded on different Western Cape beaches 2 000 kilometres from their home in the southern



BY FIONA THOMSON



ROLAND METCALFE ILLUSTRATIONI



Atlantic Ocean.

They can't be released back into the wild but keeping their new home in Cape Town as cool as they like it, takes a lot of electricity!

Mike de Maine is the Technical Manager at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town and has made it his mission to reduce the aquarium's carbon footprint. In 18 months he's already cut the bill by over R200 000.

His plans included lots of simple things you can get your parents to do at home, like putting timers on lights and blankets on geysers. "We at the aquarium can't promote saving the planet without doing it ourselves," Mike says.

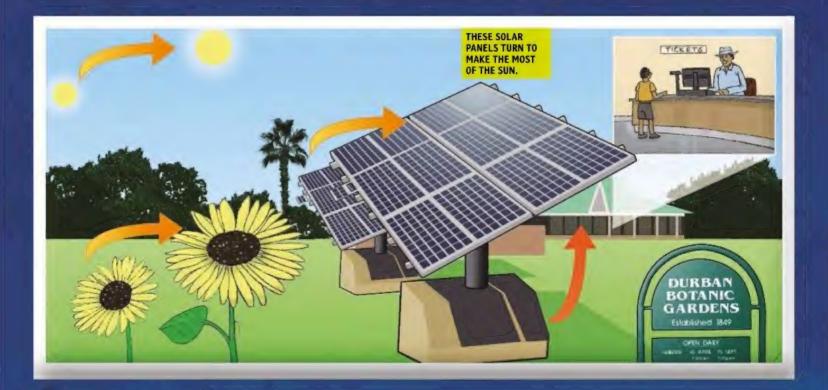
In 2011 the Two Oceans Aquarium was selected as a demonstration site by Project 90 x 2030. They installed a wind turbine and solar panel system on the roof, which is producing enough energy for the administration block – for now. With more wind and solar technology the rest of the aquarium can turn green as well.

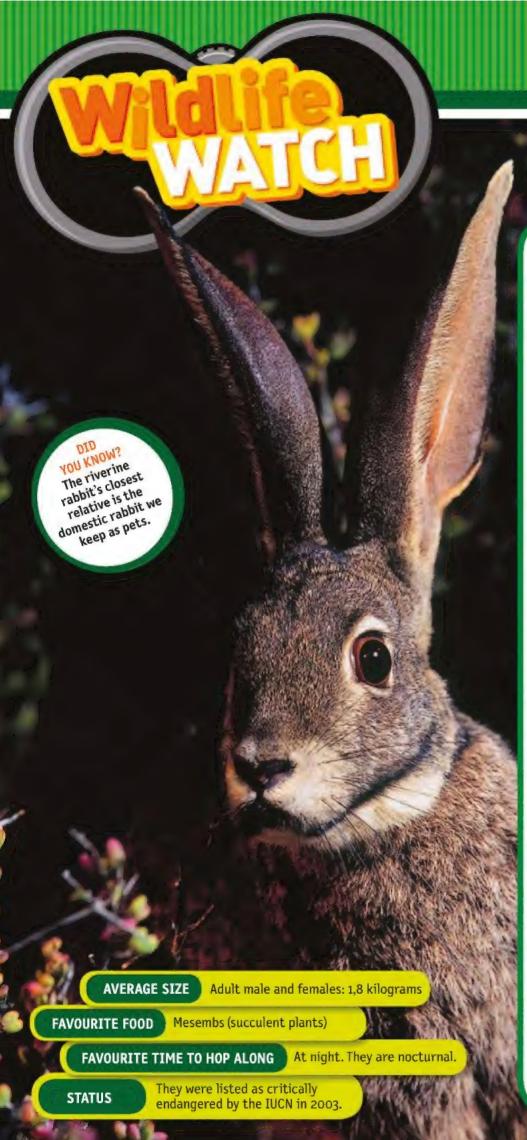
FLOWER POWER

Sometimes the best ideas are found in nature. Some plants track the

sun, turning their leaves so they get maximum power from photosynthesis. Martin Clement, Curator at the Durban Botanical Gardens, says there's no better place to look for clever eco-solutions that mimic the way plants get their energy.

Working with Project 90 x 2030, two 2-kilowatt solar arrays mounted on tracking systems were installed in the gardens where people can see them every day. The solar panels face the sun as it rises in the morning, rotating through the day until sunset and keeping the power on in the visitor's centre.





Bunny Update!

he Karoo in South Africa is the only home of a very special bunny called the riverine rabbit. We featured them in 2007 and thought we'd check in with Christy Bragg, manager of the Riverine Rabbit Programme, to find out how these rare bunnies are doing.

PICKY NEIGHBOURS

Riverine rabbits are picky about their habitat. They live on floodplains that have special riverine vegetation on which they rely for food and shelter. "Very few riverine rabbits are found in national parks and game reserves," Christy says. "Most are on private farmland and when a landowner ploughs up the riverine vegetation to grow crops or dams a river, their habitat is altered or lost."

BUNNY BOOST

In 2002 there were about 250 rabbits left in the wild, but thanks to conservation their number has increased to over 500.

The Riverine Rabbit Programme is based in Loxton in the Northern Cape and has several projects running.

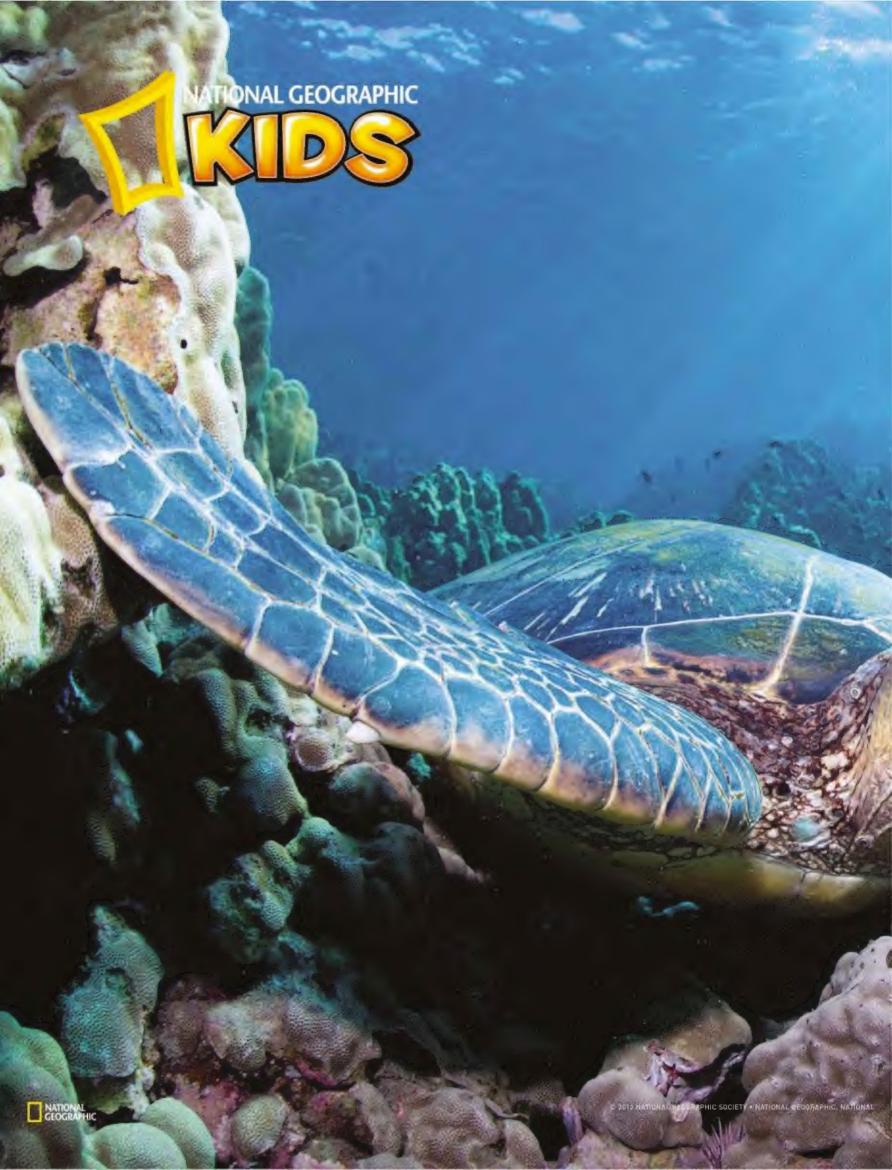
"We have a small nursery where local people are employed to grow indigenous plants," Christy says. "We plant these in degraded areas in the rabbit's habitat. This also helps farmers, as we're increasing the productivity of the Karoo veld for livestock." They also work with farmers who agree to protect the riverine areas on their farms. In return, nature conservation authorities help with alien plant clearing, fire management, grazing advice and

RIVERINE RABBITS HAVE WHITE CIRCLES ALMOST LIKE SPECTACLES AROUND THEIR EYES AND A VERY DISTINCT WHITE LINE AROUND THEIR CHIN THAT LOOKS LIKE A SMILE.

tourism benefits.

Riverine rabbits don't have a high breeding rate. They have two babies a year and only live for up to five years in the wild. So it was a surprise to all when a population of riverine rabbits was discovered in Barrydale and Touwsriver in the Western Cape in 2003. "We're always hoping more rabbits will be found," Christy says.

HIDE-AND-SEEK





Enter this month's competition and you could win a three-night getaway for a family of four at the five-star Kurland Hotel, near the beach resorts of Plettenberg Bay and Nature's Valley.

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AON KHOMS Plettenberg Bay was called Bahia Formosa by early Portuguese explorers. It means beautiful bay.

TAKING THE PONIES FOR

children can discover the watchful eye of

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To enter: tell us what early Portuguese explorers called lettenberg Bay.

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SMS*"NGK KURLAND" followed by your name, age and answer to 33970

KURLAND HOTEL

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LEAN, GREEN

you might be cruising to is capable of litre-about four times what

has a long, narrow, diamond-shaped body with wheels on the

IT'S AMAZING WHAT **INVENTORS GET UP TO!** BUT MANY OF THESE COOL INVENTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ...YET

CAPTURING

With a satisfying thwack the ball soars off your bat and into the pavilion. By the time the umpire signals a six, your brother in the stands has sent a video of your awesome batting across the country to your grandparents. The Looxcie video camera perches on his ear, constantly capturing the action in front of him. When something memorable happens, he presses a

button that automatically saves the past 30 seconds of video. He can share the clip on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter or in an e-mail. Now your friends will have to believe your story

about hitting the match-winning six!

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VIRTUAL FISH

prey.

UNDERWATE

Find out Why lobsters love their new car



FREE ENTRANCE FOR FISH AT THIS GALLERY

SCUL BY FIONA THOMSON t's funny to imagine fish making their home in the long-abandoned engine room of a shipwreck but over time layers of algae, as well as soft orange and pink corals, cover the smooth metal surfaces. To a fish it's almost the same as the real thing. That's why shipwrecks and other artificial reefs make good fishing and diving spots. People have taken it one step further and made artificial reefs by sinking logs, damaged boats and even old subway carriages on purpose. It's not cool to dump your old junk in the sea, but some studies show that well-planned artificial reefs can help the environment. Some studies have even proven that they can support a greater variety of fish species. THE AIDA SHIPWRECK **DID YOU KNOW?** On 15 September 1957 the captain of the Aida was trying to dock at Big Brother Island in the Red Sea near Egypt. It was a stormy day and the ship crashed against the rocks. Nobody was hurt in the accident but the Aida drifted offshore and sank. After all these years you can still make out parts of the structure under layers of pink and orange coral as fish swim by. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS [3]

ECO-ART

Jason deCaires Taylor is a sculptor who combines his art with conservation. While scuba diving in the Caribbean he noticed how the coral reef near where he lived was suffering because of tourism. "I thought about making artificial reefs using my skills as a sculptor because the natural reef was being kicked by divers and broken by boats dropping their anchors," he says. "The idea was to create a new attraction to draw people away. That would give the real reef time to recover. A lot of conservation is about leaving things alone. That's one of the biggest aims of the sculptures." Jason uses special environmentally friendly materials that won't pollute the ocean and are designed to attract marine life. Most of his sculptures have been of people. Once the sculptures are in place, the ocean takes over. Algae and coral start to grow. "To me this is the most exciting and dynamic part of the work, it's so unpredictable. I saw recently that the hair of one of the sculptures had started growing this sort of curly algae. I couldn't have predicted they would colonise that particular part. But it just looked so perfect in its spot," he says.

UNDERWATER BUG

His latest sculpture gallery is in the warm, shallow waters off the Mexican coast. It includes a life-sized replica of a VW Beetle. Unlike the road version, it has an enclosed "lobster city" designed to attract crustaceans. It's no accident that he used a car for his latest work. Cars and other forms of transport have contributed to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the past hundred years.

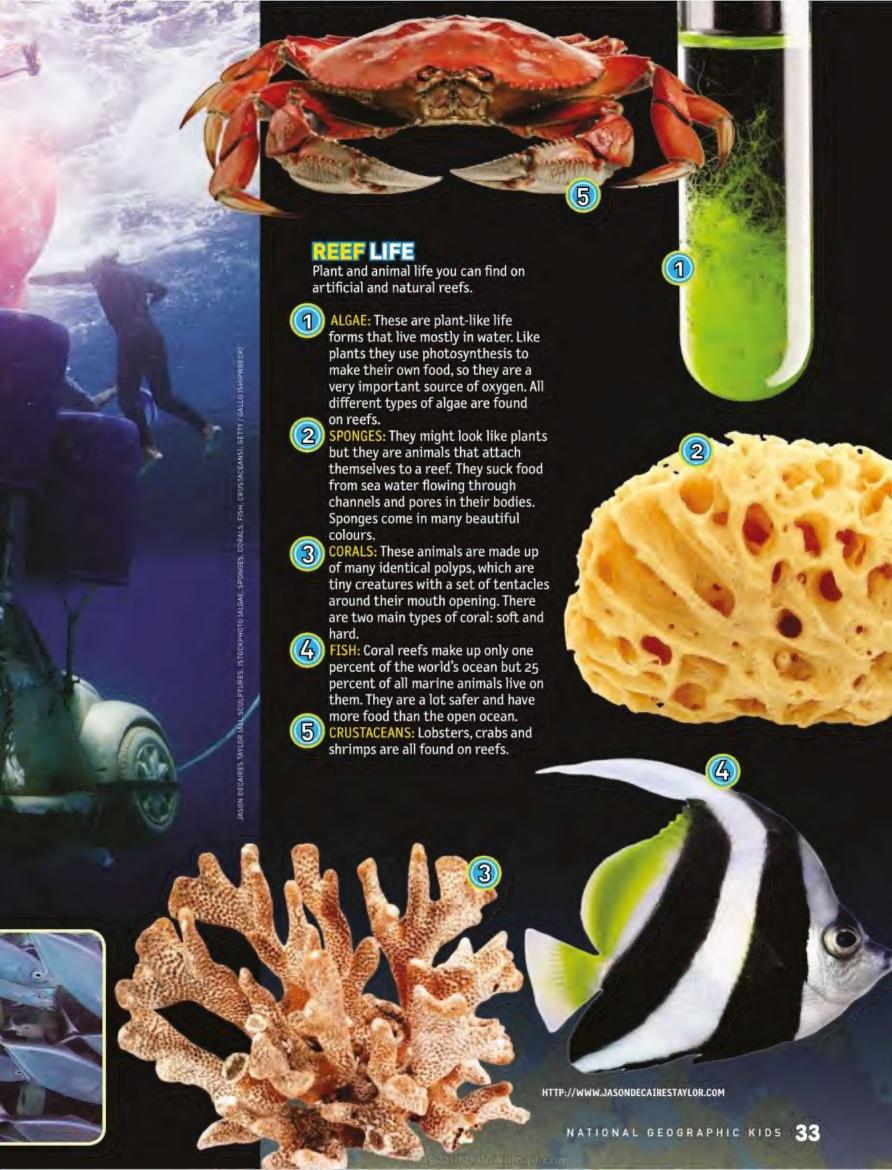
This is global warming and it means the ocean is hotter and more acidic now, which is killing coral reefs. "The sculpture is designed specifically to house marine life while exploring the big impact humans have had on our planet's ecosystems and what it means for future generations," Jason says.

DON'T BUG ME

The beetle joins a crowd of 400 life-sized statues in the underwater sculpture garden in Mexico. You can visit this unique gallery if you are a diver or snorkeler and each time it will be a little different. Jason's wish is that visitors to his sculpture garden will learn about the diversity and beauty of ocean life but will also realise that there is hope —we can make a difference for our fishy friends.







A family of pet Cats raises a wild orphan.

BY JENNIFER WEEKS

bobcat kitten cowers beside a road in Florida in America. The forest nearby has been bulldozed to make room for new houses, leaving nowhere to hide. The kitten is only a few weeks old and its mother has disappeared – perhaps hit by a car. Luckily the kitten is found and brought to

Luckily the kitten is found and brought to Big Cat Rescue (BCR), a sanctuary that helps abused and abandoned wild cats. Keepers at BCR know how to help their new visitor, who they name Hope. They bottle-feed her for a few days but then arrange an unusual adoption. A domestic mother cat living temporarily at their on-site cat hospital is nursing two kittens of her own. After lots of wary sniffing and circling, she accepts Hope into the family.

"I wanted to be sure Hope bonded with

cats, not people, so I never spoke to her or gave her attention," says BCR president Jamie Veronica, who handled Hope's rehabilitation. Within a week Hope has lots of playful energy, chasing and wrestling with her new siblings. These games teach her skills she'll need in the wild, like climbing, balancing and stalking.

WILD LESSONS

Soon Hope graduates from nursing to ground turkey, which keepers have found is a favourite for many wild cats. Hope's foster cat family helps to show her what solid food is. The bobcat follows their lead as she first sniffs, then licks and finally eats the turkey. "Once she discovered this new food she was no longer interested in nursing," Jamie says. Her next treat is a dead chick left in her enclosure. In the wild Hope's mother would stalk and kill food and bring it back to her young. At first Hope plays with it, but finally she figures out that it's food. Soon she's eating dead chicks

instincts begin to show.

As the pet kittens and Hope grow, the entire family moves to a large outdoor enclosure with

and mice three times a day. Her wild

three-metre-high fences, bushes, hanging platforms and rock dens for shelter. Hope seems to enjoy the new space, digging in the ground and scaling the enclosure's wire walls.

MOVING ON

When Hope is four months old, her domestic cat family members are adopted by humans. Now it's time for Hope to learn to catch food for herself. Her keepers release live rats into her enclosure at unpredictable times during the day through an opening that Hope can't see. "We didn't want her to go to humans in search of food," Jamie says. It's a success—Hope quickly becomes an expert hunter.

Now nearly a year old—the age at which young bobcats generally separate from their mothers—Hope is ready for release. Keepers take her to an open field ringed by woods. As soon as they open the travel crate, she bursts out and runs straight for the trees, bounding over the widest open space she has ever seen. At the edge of the forest she stops and looks back over her shoulder for a few seconds. Then she turns and disappears into the underbrush, ready for life on her own.

BOTTLE BABY









HANDIMAL



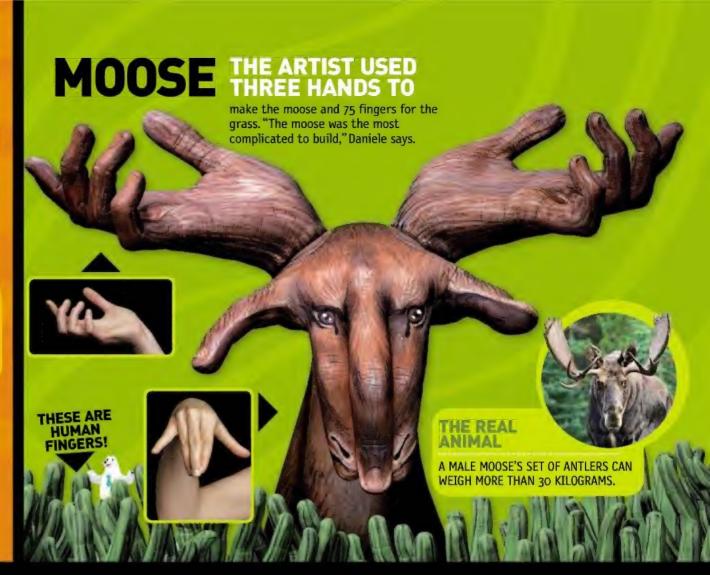
WHISKERS CAN BE TRICKY.

The most useful tools? "A fine paintbrush and a steady hand," Daniele says. "My favourite is a cheetah because it was my first and brought me luck."

THE REAL ANIMAL

CHEETAHS NEED TO DRINK ONLY ONCE EVERY 2 TO 4 DAYS.



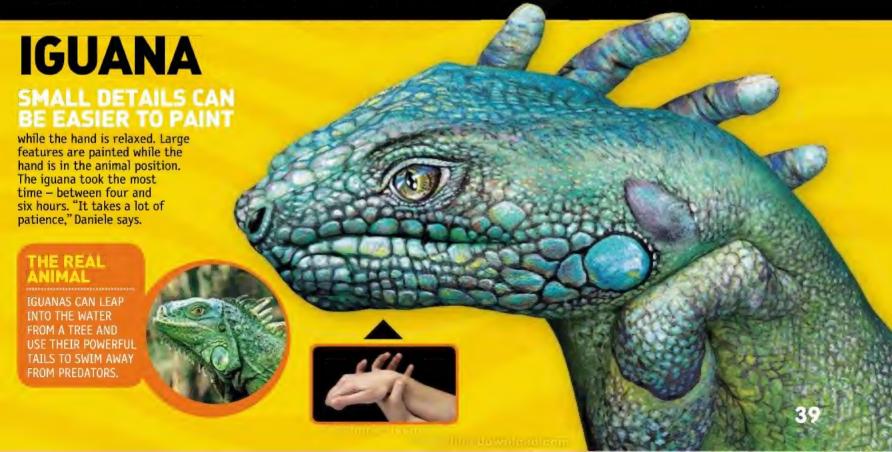




CHECK OUT THESE WILD HANDMADE CREATIONS.

BY B.F. SUMMERS AND KELLEY MILLER

What do you get when you cross a human hand with an animal? A "handimal"! Artist Guido Daniele positions people's hands into animal shapes, then paints them to create realistic works of art. "I study my hand in front of a mirror and imagine the forms it can take," says Daniele, who lives in Milan, Italy. Working from photos and his own memory, Daniele paints the animals onto the hands of models — usually his son or daughter. Check out these "handimals" and some of the secrets to Daniele's art. In this case, it's fine to "handle" the animals!





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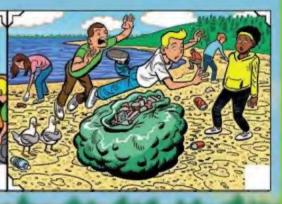


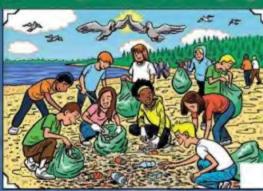
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games, laughs, and lots to do!



















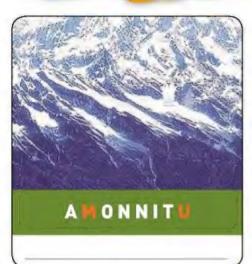
The scrapbook photos from the Annual Earth Day Cleanup are all mixed up. Number the boxes above to show the order in which the events took place.

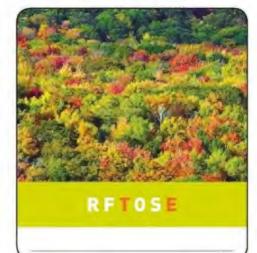
GREEN TIPS
Unplug appliances
you're not using. Even
if they're turned off,
they can drain
energy.

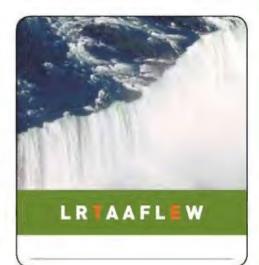
LOOK OUT, BELOW!
These photographs show places on Earth from the air. Unscramble the letters to find out each picture.

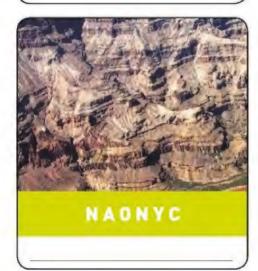
Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below.

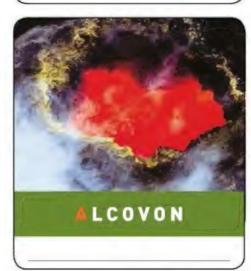
ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

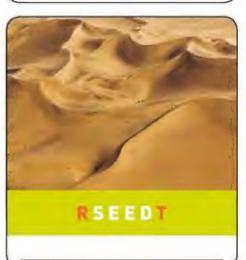


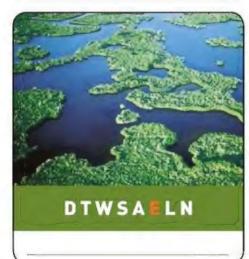


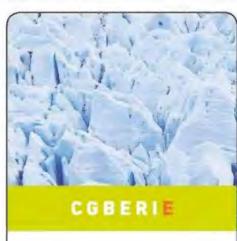


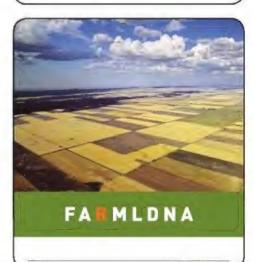












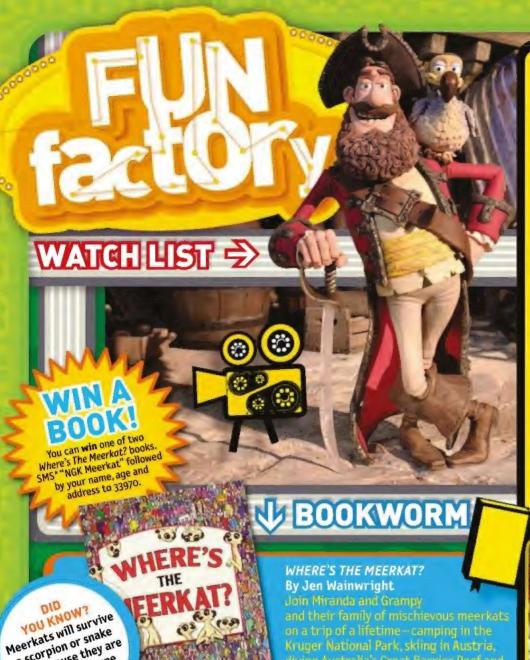
HINT: Sometimes it's low, sometimes it's high.

ANSWER:

GREEN TIP Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

44 APRIL 2012

IONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS 45



a scorpion or snake a scorpion or annual bite because they are naturally immune to the poison.

isney Princess games. SMS* IGK Princess followed by

your name, age and

address to 33970

and their family of mischievous meerkats

PLAY THIS! DISNEY PRINCESS: ENCHANTED STORYBOOKS Wii/uDraw

It's chaos in the Disney kingdom. A powerful spell has caused all the colour to disappear from your favourite fables. Join Opal, the Keeper of Colour, in a series of activities to restore colour to the kingdom. The game is played using your Magic Brush (STYLUS) and the uDraw

GameTablet. Use them to find hidden objects on the page. Pick colours from your toolbar to fill in different areas of the pictures and tilt your

uDraw GameTablet to guide your way through tricky mazes. Unlock six magical tools,

including Belle's Rose Petal Crayon and Rapunzel's Watercolour Brush, and finish all the chapters in the six storybooks to save Cinderella, Rapunzel and Belle from a dull, colourless life!

READER REVIEW: Ethan Daniels, 6, Cape Town "I loved doing the join-the-dots! Careful with the maze in the Cinderella story, it's quite tricky!

THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS

The Pirate Captain dreams of winning the Pirate of the Year award - which may be a problem considering he's not very good at being a terror of the High Seas. He and his misfit crew travel from the shores of Blood Island to the foggy streets of Victorian London to beat his bitter rivals, Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz, in this rollicking adventure, Agarrrgh!

DID YOU KNOW?

The makers of the film used a new type of technology called 3-D printing to make the characters in the movie speak. "A 3-D printer connects to a computer and receives a file that describes an object in three dimensions", says Rich Brown, senior editor at cnet.com. It works much like a normal 2-D printer but instead of ink the layers build up in liquid form. The material sets as it prints out each layer and the end result is a 3-D object—a ball, a model airplane, or an animated critter. This helped the filmmakers finish the animation faster. "For the Pirate Captain model, instead of moulding the whole character each time, we could just make 257 separate mouths," says key animator Ian Whitlock.

The Pirates! **Band of Misfits opens** nationwide on 13 April 2012.

You can win one of five The Pirates! hampers. "NGK pirate" followed by your name, age and address to 33970

CREATE YOUR OWN PIRATE NAME!

Use the first letter of your name and the first letter of your surname to create your very own pirate name! For example: if your initials are C.H. your name would be Jack Scurvy.

A: Calico J. Jiminy S. St	teven
B. Sea legs K. Cross-eyed T. El	Capitan
C. Jack L. Rowdy P. U. O	ne-tongu
D. Salty M. Hawk V. Di	iablo
E. Fish face N. Crow nest W. S	word
F. Long John 0. Stingray X. M	lagpie
G. Peg-leg P. Crooked chin Y. Sh	nark-fin
	nunder
I. Black eye R. Johnny	ose

*SMSs cost R1,50. Free SMSs don't apply. Competition closes 24 April 2012.

YOUR PARENTS

If your parents can't answer these questions, maybe they should go to school instead of you! ANSWERS ON PAGE 50



Pack the dishwasher. You'll save about 18 litres of water each time you don't wash the dishes by hand.



Which of these products can be made from maize?

A. straws B. tape

C. balloons

D. toilet paper



The energy used to fill a bath could power a(n) _____ for eight

Besides laundry detergent, what other liquid can be mixed with water and used to remove stains?

A. buttermilk

Every day about __

species become extinct.

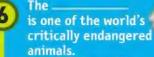
A. 1 to 20 B. 30 to 70 C. 80 to 120

9. Raising livestock contributes what percentage of the world's greenhouse gas emissions?

A. 2 percent

B. 18 percent

C. 30 percent



A. mountain gorilla B. humpback whale

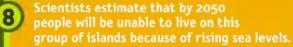
C. red panda D. jaguar

Which of the following will not save petrol or reduce carbon dioxide emissions?

A. Keeping tyres properly inflated

B. Driving faster

C. Combining errands



30 minutes of use?



How many years does it take a single aluminium can to decompose?

A. 20 to 40 years

B. 60 to 80 years

C. 80 to 100 years

D. 100 to 120 years











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